5. **Legislation.**—The legislative business transacted during the year is given in detail in the report. I would here specifically refer only to the Marumakkathayam Bill, as this was the subject of considerable discussion at the last Session of the Assembly. You may remember that, in closing the last Session, I assured the Nair Members of the Assembly that the representations made by them on the subject would receive careful consideration. Since then, a Committee, consisting of officials and non-officials belonging to the Nair community, considered those representations and recast the Bill, which was then introduced into the Council. The Council affirmed the principle of the Bill and referred it to a Select Committee. The latter having, in due course, reported on the Bill, the report was considered by the Council recently at two special sittings, and the Bill now awaits final reading. In some respects, the Bill, as finally shaped by the Council, differs from the legislation originally proposed, the changes being, however, mostly intended to meet the wishes of those who felt that, while reform was undoubtedly necessary, the original Bill went further in that direction than was needed. To the more go-a-head members of the community, I would point out that, in a matter of social legislation like this, it is the duty of the Government to defer to the wishes *even of a minority objecting to a change*, provided that such minority is not quite an insignificant one. In the opinion of the Government, the Bill, in the form it has now assumed, provides for a very substantial instalment of reform, and we have every reason to think that it will be a perfectly workable measure.

6. **Election to the Legislative Council.**– You are aware that His Highness the Maharajah has been pleased to allow the members of this Assembly to nominate to four of the non-official seats in the Legislative Council. Agreeably to this practice, the Members of the Trivandrum Division will now meet under the presidency of their Dewan Peishkar and nominate, for His Highness' consideration, a person for the seat vacated by Mr. A. Sri Narayanan Tampi in the Council.

7. **Police.**—There was some improvement in the administration of the Police Department, due mainly to the strenuous work of the present Superintendent, Mr. George. A scheme for the reorganisation of the department, submitted by the Superintendent recently, is now pending the consideration of the Government. I would say, on behalf of the Government, that we recognise the great importance of placing the Police Department on a thoroughly satisfactory footing and that we shall not grudge the expenditure necessary for doing so, but I would also point out that successful police work depends quite as much on the active sympathy and co-operation with the Police, of the law-abiding classes of the population, as on the efficiency of the Police themselves.

8. **Criminal and Civil Justice.**—There was nothing noteworthy in the administration of Criminal Justice, to which it is necessary to call your attention. Under the head of Civil Justice, I would refer to the circumstance that the volume of fresh original litigation rose slightly during the year, from 51,312 cases in 1085 to 52,266 cases in 1086. The original civil litigation in the State has been steadily advancing for now several years, but not, however, to the extent which people probably imagine. In comparing the volume of such litigation in any one year with that of any other year, we should not fail to take note of the population as well in the two years. Taking, for example, the ten years' period between 1076 and 1086, it is true that, during this period, the volume of original civil litigation advanced from 37,365 cases to 52,266 cases, but the population of the State also increased during the period from 29,52,157 to 34,28,975

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